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Approved For Release 2002/05/17 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000600090012-0

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1.72

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BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116598

SUBJECT; ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE IN BRAZIL.

1. WHILE TUNNEY AMENDMENT TABLED BY LARGE MAJORITY ON JUNE 27, SENTIMENT REMAINS IN SENATE OPPOSED TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR BRAZIL AS LONG AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS EXISTS. SUPPORTERS OF AMENDMENT HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL INTRODUCE NEW AMENDMENT IN EFFORT OBTAIN VOTE ON SUBSTANCE INSTEAD OF PROCEDURE. NEXT AMENDMENT WILL ELIMINATE ROLE OF OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON U.S. PRESIDENT FOR DETERMINING NO TORTURE OR OTHER VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXISTS IN BRAZIL. TUNNEY OFFICE FEELS IT OWES SUBSTANCE VOTE TO AMENDMENT'S CO-SPONSORS, SENATORS KENNEDY, RIBICOFF, CRANSTON, MC GOVERN, HART, AND PROXMIRE. WE EXPECT CONTINUED EFFORTS BY OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH TO EXPRESS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF BRAZIL ON THIS ISSUE.

2. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT SENATE VOTE IS NOT APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR EXPRESSION OF U.S. CONCERN OVER CONTINUATION MISTREATMENT PRISONERS, IT SHARES SENATE'S CONCERN ON THIS MATTER. WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEFEAT EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC CRITICISM THROUGH SENATE VOTE, BUT BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT GOB NOT MISUNDERSTAND OUR POSITION.

3. SECRETARY MEYER COMMUNICATED TO AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTR HIS ASSESSMENT THAT STRONG FEELINGS OF SIGNIFICANT AND

State Dept. review completed

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INFLUENTIAL GROUP OF SENATORS STILL SEEKING EXPRESSION OF
AS APPROPRIATE IN YOUR CONTACTS, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE
RESPONSIBLE GOB OFFICIALS HAVE NO ILLUSIONS OVER CONTINUED
STRONG FEELINGS IN SENATE. REPORTING ON THESE APPROACHES
WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. IF EMBASSY POSSESSES ANY FURTHER INFO REGARDING STATE
OF TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AT PRESENT BEYOND THAT REPORTED
TO DATE OR ANY NEW LIGHT TO THROW ON MATTER, IT COULD
BE USEFUL IN DISCUSSIONS HERE. IRWIN
BT

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